

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06946 031115Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 AID-05 IGA-01 MED-02

HEW-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /071 W

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R 030730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0183

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134, KABUL 6836

1. EMBASSY KABUL SEES A LIMITED BUT IMPORTANT U.S. ROLE
IN THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS BEST TO
OBSERVE IN THE BEGINNING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN
71&9-) HAS ONLY RECENTLY (ESPECIALLY SINCE THE JULY 1973 COUP
WHICH BROUGHT IN A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT) BEGUN TO APPRECIATE
THE FULL DANGERS OF NARCOTICS CULTIVATION AND TRADE. IT IS
WORTH ADDING HOWEVER THAT EVEN IF THERE WERE ENORMOUS ENTH-
USIASM AMONG GOVERNMENT MEMBERS FOR A NARCOTICS CONTROL
PROGRAM IT WILL BE SOME TIME INDEED BEFORE THE POWER OF
THE KABUL GOVERNMENT CAN BE MADE EXTENSIVE ENOUGH AND THE
EFFICIENCY OF POLICE FORCES MADE GREAT ENOUGH TO CONTROL
THIS SITUATION WITHIN LEVELS OF TOLERANCE SUFFICIENT TO
INSURE THAT NO REPEAT NO AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATERIAL FOUND
ITS WAY INTO THE AMERICAN MARKET. THIS IS BECAUSE AFGHAN-
ISTAN HAS BEEN A FRAGMENTED, DECENTRALIZED COUNTRY FOR
HUNDREDS OF YEARS. THE CONCEPT OF A VIGOROUS CENTRAL GOVERN-
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PAGE 02 KABUL 06946 031115Z

MENT IS RELATIVELY NEW.

2. NARCOTICS CONTROL IS, BESIDES, A SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH THE AFGHANS ARE BASICALLY NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING UP ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH THE UNITED STATES. DESPITE SOME URGING, FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO GAIN FOR THE JUSTICE-DEA ATTACHE AT THE EMBASSY A "CHARTER" WITHIN WHICH HE COULD DIRECT HIS EFFORTS. OUR OFFERS OF TRAINING COURSES FOR NARCOTICS OFFICERS HAVE, SIMILARLY, NOT BEEN TAKEN UP. WE UNDERSTAND THIS AFGHAN RELUCTANCE, BASED UPON SENSITIVITIES RISING FROM HISTORICAL REALITIES, RELATING TO SUSPICION OF OUTSIDERS, "INTERFERENCE", THOUGH WE CAN HARDLY FAIL TO HOPE THAT THESE ATTITUDES WILL CHANGE.

3. AFGHANS HAVE HOZRVER SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS MATTERS WITH UNITEDNJDTIONS ORGANIZATIONS. IN KABUL SPECIFICALLY THE GOA HAS AGREED TO WORK WITH THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UF DAC), AND IT IS IN COOPERATION WITH THIS AGENCY THAT WE FEEL U.S. EFFORTS CAN BEST BE EXPENDED. A MEASURE OF POSITIVE COOPERATION HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTAINED IN AFGHAN ACCEPTANCE OF A POLICE ADVISOR ON NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SUPPLIED UNDER UNFDAC AUSPICES, AND AS THE KABUL REFTEL REPORTS THE UN PROGRAM ALREADY HAS PRODUCED VISIBLE RESULTS. AGAIN, WHERE U.S. (AS CONTRASTED WITH UN) COOPERATION MIGHT BECOME VISIBLE, HOWEVER, PROGRAMS HAVE NOT BEEN FRUITFUL. THUS AN OFFER TO FUND AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE EMBASSY'S DEA OFFICER THROUGH THE UN ENFORCEMENT ADVISOR HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED. WE ARE LEFT AGAIN WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT FOR THESRESENT DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WILL NOT ONLY BE UNHELPFUL, BUT COULD EVEN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR OVERALL DRUG PREVENTION EFFORTS.

4. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO CONTINUE TALKS BY THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WITH RANKING AFGHAN OFFICIALS TO REVIEW THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT, IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS DOWN TO THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE GOA THE U.S. CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS.

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